

What is claimed is:

1. An indicator macromolecule for detecting the presence or concentration of an analyte in an aqueous environment, said macromolecule comprising a copolymer of:

5

a) one or more indicator component monomers which individually are not sufficiently water soluble to permit their use in an aqueous environment for detecting the presence or concentration of said analyte; and

10

b) one or more hydrophilic monomers;

such that the macromolecule is capable of detecting the presence or concentration of said analyte in an aqueous environment.

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2. The indicator macromolecule of claim 1, wherein the macromolecule is capable of detection by an optical change.

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3. The indicator macromolecule of claim 1, wherein the indicator component monomer comprises an N-(o-boronobenzyl)aminomethylantracene derivative.

4. The indicator macromolecule of claim 3, wherein the indicator component monomer is selected from the group consisting of

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9-[[N-methacryloylaminopropyl-N-(o-boronobenzyl)amino]-methyl]anthracene;

9-[N-[2-(5,5-dimethylborinan-2-yl)benzyl]-N-[3-(methacrylamido)propylamino]methyl]-10-[N-[2-(5,5-dimethylborinan-2-yl)benzyl]-N-[2-(2-hydroxyethoxy)-ethylamino]methyl]anthracene;

9-[N-(2-boronobenzyl)-N-[3-(methacrylamido)-  
propylamino]methyl]-10-[N-(2-boronobenzyl)-N-[2-(2-  
hydroxyethoxy)ethylamino]methyl]anthracene;

5 9,10-bis[N-[2-(5,5-dimethylborinan-2-yl)benzyl]-N-[3-  
(methacrylamido)propylamino]methyl]anthracene;

9,10-bis[N-(2-boronobenzyl)-N-[3-(methacrylamido)-  
propylamino]methyl]anthracene;

10 9-[N-[2-(5,5-dimethylborinan-2-yl)benzyl]-N-[2-(2-  
methacroyloxyethoxy)ethylamino]methyl]-10-[N-[2-(5,5-  
dimethylborinan-2-yl)benzyl]-N-[2-(2-hydroxyethoxy)-  
ethylamino]methyl]anthracene;

9-[N-(2-boronobenzyl)-N-[2-(2-methacroyloxyethoxy)-  
ethylamino]methyl]-10-[N-[2-boronobenzyl]-N-[2-(2-  
hydroxyethoxy)ethylamino]methyl]anthracene;

15 9,10-bis[N-[2-(5,5-dimethylborinan-2-yl)benzyl]-N-[2-  
(2-methacroyloxyethoxy)ethylamino]methyl]anthracene;

9,10-bis[N-(2-boronobenzyl)-N-[2-(2-  
methacroyloxyethoxy)ethylamino]methyl]anthracene;

20 N-[3-(methacrylamido)propyl]-3,4-dihydroxy-9,10-dioxo-  
2-anthracenesulfonamide;

$\alpha, \alpha'$ -bis[N-[2-(5,5-dimethylborinan-2-yl)benzyl]-N-[3-  
(methacrylamido)propylamino]-1,4-xylene;  
and salts or derivatives thereof.

25 5. The indicator macromolecule of claim 3, wherein the  
hydrophilic monomer comprises [3-(methacryloylamino)-  
propyl]trimethylammonium chloride.

30 6. The indicator macromolecule of claim 1, wherein the  
indicator component monomer is selected from the group  
consisting of a lanthanide chelate and a polyaromatic  
hydrocarbon.

7. The indicator macromolecule of claim 1, wherein the molar ratio of hydrophilic monomer:indicator component monomer is from about 2:1 to about 1000:1.

5 8. The indicator macromolecule of claim 7, wherein the ratio of hydrophilic monomer:indicator component monomer is from about 5:1 to about 50:1.

9. The indicator macromolecule of claim 8, wherein the ratio of hydrophilic monomer:indicator component monomer is about 5:1.

10 10. The indicator macromolecule of claim 1, wherein the analyte detected is selected from the group consisting of a vicinal diol; an  $\alpha$ -hydroxy acid, a  $\beta$ -keto acid oxygen; carbon dioxide; zinc, potassium, hydrogen, or carbonate ions; a toxin; a mineral; and a hormone.

15 11. The indicator macromolecule of claim 10, wherein the analyte detected is a vicinal diol which comprises a saccharide.

12. The indicator macromolecule of claim 11, wherein the saccharide is glucose.

20 13. The indicator macromolecule of claim 1, wherein  
i) the molar ratio of hydrophilic monomer:indicator component monomer is from about 2:1 to about 15:1,

ii) the indicator component monomer comprises an N-(o-boronobenzyl)amino]methyl]anthracene derivative,

25 iii) the hydrophilic monomer comprises [3-(methacryloylamino)propyl]trimethylammonium chloride, and  
iv) the macromolecule exhibits an excimer effect.

14. A method for the production of an indicator macromolecule for detecting the presence or concentration of an analyte in an aqueous environment, said method comprising copolymerizing:

5 a) one or more indicator component monomers which individually are not sufficiently water soluble to permit their use in an aqueous environment for detecting the presence or concentration of said analyte; and

b) one or more hydrophilic monomers;

10 such that the resulting macromolecule is capable of detecting the presence or concentration of said analyte in an aqueous environment.

15 15. The method of claim 14, wherein the macromolecule is capable of detection by an optical change.

16. The method of claim 14, wherein the indicator component monomer comprises an N-(o-boronobenzyl)aminomethylantracene derivative.

17. The method of claim 16, wherein the indicator component monomer is selected from the group consisting of

9-[[N-methacryloylaminopropyl-N-(o-boronobenzyl)amino]-methyl]anthracene;

9-[N-[2-(5,5-dimethylborinan-2-yl)benzyl]-N-[3-(methacrylamido)propylamino]methyl]-10-[N-[2-(5,5-dimethylborinan-2-yl)benzyl]-N-[2-(2-hydroxyethoxy)-ethylamino]methyl]anthracene;

9-[N-(2-boronobenzyl)-N-[3-(methacrylamido)-propylamino]methyl]-10-[N-(2-boronobenzyl)-N-[2-(2-hydroxyethoxy)ethylamino]methyl]anthracene;

9,10-bis[N-[2-(5,5-dimethylborinan-2-yl)benzyl]-N-[3-(methacrylamido)propylamino]methyl]anthracene;

9,10-bis[N-(2-boronobenzyl)-N-[3-(methacrylamido)-propylamino]methyl]anthracene;

5 9-[N-[2-(5,5-dimethylborinan-2-yl)benzyl]-N-[2-(2-methacroyloxyethoxy)ethylamino]methyl]-10-[N-[2-(5,5-dimethylborinan-2-yl)benzyl]-N-[2-(2-hydroxyethoxy)-ethylamino]methyl]anthracene;

10 9-[N-(2-boronobenzyl)-N-[2-(2-methacroyloxyethoxy)-ethylamino]methyl]-10-[N-[2-boronobenzyl]-N-[2-(2-hydroxyethoxy)ethylamino]methyl]anthracene;

9,10-bis[N-[2-(5,5-dimethylborinan-2-yl)benzyl]-N-[2-(2-methacroyloxyethoxy)ethylamino]methyl]anthracene;

15 9,10-bis[N-(2-boronobenzyl)-N-[2-(2-methacroyloxyethoxy)ethylamino]methyl]anthracene;

N-[3-(methacrylamido)propyl]-3,4-dihydroxy-9,10-dioxo-2-anthracenesulfonamide;

20  $\alpha, \alpha'$ -bis[N-[2-(5,5-dimethylborinan-2-yl)benzyl]-N-[3-(methacrylamido)propylamino]-1,4-xylene;  
and salts or derivatives thereof.

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18. The method of claim 14, wherein the hydrophilic monomer comprises [3-(methacryloylamino)-propyl]trimethylammonium chloride.

25 19. The method of claim 14, wherein the indicator component monomer is selected from the group consisting of a lanthanide chelate and a polyaromatic hydrocarbon.

20. The method of claim 14, wherein the molar ratio of hydrophilic monomer:indicator component monomer is from about 2:1 to about 1000:1.

21. The method of claim 20, wherein the ratio of hydrophilic monomer:indicator component monomer is from about 5:1 to about 50:1.

5 22. The method of claim 21, wherein the ratio of hydrophilic monomer:indicator component monomer is about 5:1.

10 23. The method of claim 14, wherein the analyte detected is selected from the group consisting of a vicinal diol; an  $\alpha$ -hydroxy acid; a  $\beta$ -keto acid; oxygen; carbon dioxide; zinc, potassium, hydrogen, or carbonate ions; a toxin; a mineral; and a hormone.

24. The method of claim 23, wherein the analyte detected is a vicinal diol which comprises a saccharide.

15 25. The method of claim 24, wherein the saccharide is glucose.

26. The method of claim 14, wherein

i) the molar ratio of hydrophilic monomer:indicator component monomer is from about 2:1 to about 15:1,

ii) the indicator component monomer comprises an N-(o-boronobenzyl)aminomethylanthracene derivative,

iii) the hydrophilic monomer comprises [3-(methacryloylamino)propyl]trimethylammonium chloride, and

iv) the macromolecule exhibits an excimer effect.

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25 27. A method for detecting the presence or concentration of an analyte in a sample having an aqueous environment, said method comprising:

a) exposing the sample to an indicator macromolecule, said macromolecule comprising a copolymer of:

- i) one or more indicator component monomers which individually are not sufficiently water soluble to permit their use in an aqueous environment for detecting the presence or concentration of said analyte; and
- ii) one or more hydrophilic monomers;

such that the resulting macromolecule is capable of detecting the presence or concentration of said analyte in an aqueous environment, and wherein the indicator macromolecule has a detectable quality that changes in a concentration-dependent manner when said macromolecule is exposed to said analyte; and

b) measuring any change in said detectable quality to thereby determine the presence or concentration of said analyte in said sample.

28. The method of claim 27, wherein the change in said detectable quality is an optical change.

29. The method of claim 27, wherein the indicator component monomer comprises an N-(o-boronobenzyl)aminomethylantracene derivative.

30. The method of claim 29, wherein the indicator component monomer is selected from the group consisting of

9-[[N-methacryloylaminopropyl-N-(o-boronobenzyl)amino]-methyl]anthracene;

9-[N-[2-(5,5-dimethylborinan-2-yl)benzyl]-N-[3-(methacrylamido)propylamino]methyl]-10-[N-[2-(5,5-dimethylborinan-2-yl)benzyl]-N-[2-(2-hydroxyethoxy)ethylamino]methyl]anthracene;

5 9-[N-(2-boronobenzyl)-N-[3-(methacrylamido)propylamino]methyl]-10-[N-(2-boronobenzyl)-N-[2-(2-hydroxyethoxy)ethylamino]methyl]anthracene;

9,10-bis[N-[2-(5,5-dimethylborinan-2-yl)benzyl]-N-[3-(methacrylamido)propylamino]methyl]anthracene;

10 9,10-bis[N-(2-boronobenzyl)-N-[3-(methacrylamido)propylamino]methyl]anthracene;

9-[N-[2-(5,5-dimethylborinan-2-yl)benzyl]-N-[2-(2-methacroyloxyethoxy)ethylamino]methyl]-10-[N-[2-(5,5-dimethylborinan-2-yl)benzyl]-N-[2-(2-hydroxyethoxy)ethylamino]methyl]anthracene;

15 9-[N-(2-boronobenzyl)-N-[2-(2-methacroyloxyethoxy)ethylamino]methyl]-10-[N-[2-boronobenzyl]-N-[2-(2-hydroxyethoxy)ethylamino]methyl]anthracene;

20 9,10-bis[N-[2-(5,5-dimethylborinan-2-yl)benzyl]-N-[2-(2-methacroyloxyethoxy)ethylamino]methyl]anthracene;

9,10-bis[N-(2-boronobenzyl)-N-[2-(2-methacroyloxyethoxy)ethylamino]methyl]anthracene;

N-[3-(methacrylamido)propyl]-3,4-dihydroxy-9,10-dioxo-2-anthracenesulfonamide;

25 *sub* *ake*  $\alpha, \alpha'$ -bis[N-[2-(5,5-dimethylborinan-2-yl)benzyl]-N-[3-(methacrylamido)propylamino]-1,4-xylene;  
and salts or derivatives thereof.

30 31. The method of claim 27, wherein the hydrophilic monomer comprises [3-(methacryloylamino)propyl]trimethylammonium chloride.



32. The method of claim 27, wherein the indicator component monomer is selected from the group consisting of a lanthanide chelate and a polyaromatic hydrocarbon.

5 33. The method of claim 27 wherein the molar ratio of hydrophilic monomer:indicator component monomer is from about 2:1 to about 1000:1.

34. The method of claim 33, wherein the ratio of hydrophilic monomer:indicator component monomer is from about 5:1 to about 50:1.

10 35. The method of claim 34 wherein the ratio of hydrophilic monomer:indicator component monomer is about 5:1.

15 36. The method of claim 27, wherein the analyte detected is selected from the group consisting of a saccharide; oxygen; carbon dioxide; and zinc, potassium, hydrogen, or carbonate ions.

37. The method of claim 36, wherein the analyte detected is a saccharide.

20 38. The method of claim 37, wherein the saccharide is glucose.

25 39. The method of claim 27, wherein  
i) the molar ratio of hydrophilic monomer:indicator component monomer is from about 2:1 to about 15:1,  
ii) the indicator component monomer comprises an N-(o-boronobenzyl)aminomethylantracene derivative,

- iii) the hydrophilic monomer comprises [3-(methacryloylamino)propyl]trimethylammonium chloride, and  
iv) the macromolecule exhibits an excimer effect.

5 40. The method of claim 39, wherein said macromolecule serves as both an indicator and a reference.

41. A macromolecule which is capable of exhibiting an excimer effect, which comprises a copolymer of:

10 a) one or more excimer forming monomers, the molecules of which are capable of exhibiting an excimer effect when suitably oriented with respect to each other; and

b) one or more other monomers;  
such that the resulting macromolecule exhibits said excimer effect.

15 42. The macromolecule of claim 41, wherein the macromolecule is capable of detecting the presence or concentration of an analyte.

43. The macromolecule of claim 42, wherein

20 a) the excimer forming monomer individually is not sufficiently water soluble to permit its use in an aqueous environment for detecting the presence or concentration of said analyte; and

25 b) the other monomer is a hydrophilic monomer; such that the macromolecule is capable of detecting the presence or concentration of said analyte in an aqueous environment.

44. The macromolecule of claim 42, wherein the excimer effect does not substantially change in response to changes in the presence or concentration of the analyte.

45. The macromolecule of claim 44, wherein  
i) the molar ratio of other monomer:excimer forming  
monomer is from about 2:1 to about 15:1,  
ii) the excimer forming monomer comprises an N-(o-  
5 boronobenzyl)aminomethylantracene derivative, and  
iii) the other monomer comprises [3-  
(methacryloylamino)propyl]trimethylammonium chloride.

46. The macromolecule of claim 41, wherein the excimer  
forming monomer is selected from the group consisting of  
10 a lanthanide chelate and a polyaromatic hydrocarbon.

47. The macromolecule of claim 45, wherein the excimer  
forming monomer is selected from the group consisting of  
9-[[N-methacryloylamino]propyl-N-(o-boronobenzyl)amino]-  
methyl]anthracene;

15 9-[N-[2-(5,5-dimethylborinan-2-yl)benzyl]-N-[3-  
(methacrylamido)propylamino]methyl]-10-[N-[2-(5,5-  
dimethylborinan-2-yl)benzyl]-N-[2-(2-hydroxyethoxy)-  
ethylamino]methyl]anthracene;

20 9-[N-(2-boronobenzyl)-N-[3-(methacrylamido)-  
propylamino]methyl]-10-[N-(2-boronobenzyl)-N-[2-(2-  
hydroxyethoxy)ethylamino]methyl]anthracene;

9,10-bis[N-[2-(5,5-dimethylborinan-2-yl)benzyl]-N-[3-  
(methacrylamido)propylamino]methyl]anthracene;

25 9,10-bis[N-(2-boronobenzyl)-N-[3-(methacrylamido)-  
propylamino]methyl]anthracene;

9-[N-[2-(5,5-dimethylborinan-2-yl)benzyl]-N-[2-(2-  
methacroyloxyethoxy)ethylamino]methyl]-10-[N-[2-(5,5-  
dimethylborinan-2-yl)benzyl]-N-[2-(2-hydroxyethoxy)-  
ethylamino]methyl]anthracene;

9-[N-(2-boronobenzyl)-N-[2-(2-methacroyloxyethoxy)-  
ethylamino]methyl]-10-[N-(2-boronobenzyl)-N-[2-(2-hydroxyethoxy)  
9,10-bis[N-[2-(5,5-dimethylborinan-2-yl)benzyl]-N-[2-  
(2-methacroyloxyethoxy)ethylamino]methyl]anthracene;  
5 9,10-bis[N-(2-boronobenzyl)-N-[2-(2-  
methacroyloxyethoxy)ethylamino]methyl]anthracene;  
N-[3-(methacrylamido)propyl]-3,4-dihydroxy-9,10-dioxo-  
2-anthracenesulfonamide;  
α,α'-bis[N-[2-(5,5-dimethylborinan-2-yl)benzyl]-N-[3-  
10 (methacrylamido)propylamino]-1,4-xylene;  
and salts or derivatives thereof.

48. A method for producing a macromolecule which is  
capable of exhibiting an excimer effect, which method  
comprises copolymerizing:

- 15 a) one or more excimer forming monomers, the molecules  
of which are capable of exhibiting an excimer effect when  
suitably oriented with respect to each other; and  
b) one or more other monomers;  
such that the resulting macromolecule exhibits said  
20 excimer effect.

49. The method of claim 48, wherein the macromolecule  
is capable of detecting the presence or concentration of  
an analyte.

50. The method of claim 49, wherein

- 25 a) the excimer forming monomer individually is not  
sufficiently water soluble to permit its use in an  
aqueous environment for detecting the presence or  
concentration of said analyte; and  
b) the other monomer is a hydrophilic monomer;

such that the macromolecule is capable of detecting the presence or concentration of said analyte in an aqueous environment.

5 51. The method of claim 49, wherein the excimer effect does not substantially change in response to changes in the presence or concentration of the analyte.

52. The method of claim 51, wherein

i) the molar ratio of other monomer:excimer forming monomer is from about 2:1 to about 15:1,

10 ii) the excimer forming monomer comprises an N-(o-boronobenzyl)aminomethylantracene derivative, and

iii) the other monomer comprises [3-(methacryloylamino)propyl]trimethylammonium chloride.

15 53. The method of claim 48, wherein the excimer forming monomer is selected from the group consisting of a lanthanide chelate and a polyaromatic hydrocarbon.

54. The method of claim 52, wherein the excimer forming monomer is selected from the group consisting of

9-[[N-methacryloylamino]propyl-N-(o-boronobenzyl)amino]-methyl]anthracene;

9-[N-[2-(5,5-dimethylborinan-2-yl)benzyl]-N-[3-(methacrylamido)propylamino]methyl]-10-[N-[2-(5,5-dimethylborinan-2-yl)benzyl]-N-[2-(2-hydroxyethoxy)ethylamino]methyl]anthracene;

25 9-[N-(2-boronobenzyl)-N-[3-(methacrylamido)propylamino]methyl]-10-[N-(2-boronobenzyl)-N-[2-(2-hydroxyethoxy)ethylamino]methyl]anthracene;

9,10-bis[N-[2-(5,5-dimethylborinan-2-yl)benzyl]-N-[3-(methacrylamido)propylamino]methyl]anthracene;

9,10-bis[N-(2-boronobenzyl)-N-[3-(methacrylamido)-propylamino]methyl]anthracene;

9-[N-[2-(5,5-dimethylborinan-2-yl)benzyl]-N-[2-(2-methacroyloxyethoxy)ethylamino]methyl]-10-[N-[2-(5,5-dimethylborinan-2-yl)benzyl]-N-[2-(2-hydroxyethoxy)ethylamino]methyl]anthracene;

9-[N-(2-boronobenzyl)-N-[2-(2-methacroyloxyethoxy)ethylamino]methyl]-10-[N-(2-boronobenzyl)-N-[2-(2-hydroxyethoxy)ethylamino]methyl]-anthracene;

9,10-bis[N-[2-(5,5-dimethylborinan-2-yl)benzyl]-N-[2-(2-methacroyloxyethoxy)ethylamino]methyl]anthracene;

9,10-bis[N-(2-boronobenzyl)-N-[2-(2-methacroyloxyethoxy)ethylamino]methyl]anthracene;

N-[3-(methacrylamido)propyl]-3,4-dihydroxy-9,10-dioxo-2-anthracenesulfonamide;

$\alpha, \alpha'$ -bis[N-[2-(5,5-dimethylborinan-2-yl)benzyl]-N-[3-(methacrylamido)propylamino]-1,4-xylene;  
and salts or derivatives thereof.

55. A method for detecting the presence or concentration of an analyte in a sample, said method comprising:

a) exposing the sample to an indicator macromolecule, said macromolecule comprising a copolymer of:

- i) one or more indicator component monomers, the molecules of which are capable of exhibiting an excimer effect when suitably oriented with respect to each other, and which are also capable of detecting the presence or concentration of an analyte; and
- ii) one or more other monomers;

such that the resulting macromolecule exhibits said  
excimer effect, and wherein the indicator macromolecule  
has a detectable quality that changes in a concentration-  
dependent manner when said macromolecule is exposed to  
5 said analyte; and

b) measuring any change in said detectable quality to  
thereby determine the presence or concentration of said  
analyte in said sample.

56. The method of claim 55, wherein the excimer effect  
10 does not substantially change in response to changes in  
the presence or concentration of the analyte.

57. The method of claim 56, wherein

i) the molar ratio of other monomer:indicator  
component monomer is from about 2:1 to about 15:1,

15 ii) the indicator component monomer comprises an N-(o-  
boronobenzyl)amino]methyl]anthracene derivative, and

iii) the other monomer comprises [3-  
(methacryloylamino)propyl]trimethylammonium chloride.

58. The method of claim 55, wherein the indicator  
20 component monomer is selected from the group consisting  
of a lanthanide chelate and a polyaromatic hydrocarbon.

59. The method of claim 57, wherein the indicator  
component monomer is selected from the group consisting  
of

25 9-[[N-methacryloylamino]propyl-N-(o-boronobenzyl)amino]-  
methyl]anthracene;

9-[N-(2-boronobenzyl)-N-[3-(methacrylamido)-  
propylamino]methyl]-10-[N-[2-(5,5-dimethylborinan-2-

yl)benzyl]-N-[2-(2-hydroxyethoxy)ethylamino]-methyl]anthracene;

9-[N-(2-boronobenzyl)-N-[2-(2-methacroyloxyethoxy)-ethylamino]methyl]-10-[N-(2-boronobenzyl)-N-[2-(2-hydroxyethoxy)ethylamino]methyl]-anthracene; and

5 9,10-bis[N-(2-boronobenzyl)-N-[2-(2-methacroyloxyethoxy)ethylamino]methyl]anthracene; and salts or derivatives thereof.

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